



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

Welcome Summer Interns

We are excited to introduce our wonderful group of interns who have joined us for this summer season. These interns bring a fresh perspective and valuable support to our programs. We are thrilled to have Patrick Dineen, Lucas Crowell, Michael Pinedo and Sarah Sportini on board as they work to support our mission.

“One of the most exciting aspects of this internship program is the opportunity for our students and young adults to create connections with young people around their own age. These great bonds lead to long lasting friendships,” explains Kim Stevens, Academy Staff.

Patrick Dineen, a student from the University of Scranton, works directly with our Adult Program in Team 3. As an intern, Patrick brings enthusiasm, compassion and dedication to make a positive impact on the lives of our participants.

Lucas Crowell, a student from Chino State University, and Michael Pinedo, a UConn student, have both returned for their third consecutive summer as interns. “The bonds I make with the students are so deep and authentic, it is one of the reasons I continue to come back each summer,” says Michael. The interns' commitment to our mission is evident as they continue to provide valuable support, peer mentorship, and encouragement to our students. Their presence adds a fresh energy along with familiarity, creating a nurturing environment where our students can thrive.

Sarah Sportini, a student from UConn, is joining us for her first summer. Sarah's enthusiasm and perspective contribute to the vibrant energy of our summer program.

With the presence of these talented interns, the students are embarking on a summer filled with growth, learning and fun. The friendships formed, lessons learned and memories created will extend far beyond the summer, positively influencing our students and interns alike.

We are grateful to our interns for their contributions and look forward to the positive



impact they will have on our community.



A New Chapter: Visions of a Bright Future



Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs, is preparing to enter an exciting new chapter filled with growth and change. The Center is on the verge of a promising future, filled with endless opportunities.

The recent retirement of Helen Burland, who served as the Executive Director since 2008, marks the end of an era but beginning of a new chapter. Stepping into the role with confidence, expertise and familiarity is Laura Grozier, previously the Center's Director of Operations. With a seamless transition of leadership, Saint Catherine Center is poised for continued success and growth under Laura's guidance. Helen Burland reminds us, "Change is a positive force that brings growth."

With commitment to constant improvement, the Center is on the verge of completing its *Building for the Future Campaign*. This expansive project will reimagine the programming and learning experiences offered by the Center.

Strategic renovations and expansion efforts will double the building's square footage, providing necessary space to accommodate the evolving needs of the community. This transformational endeavor, built upon a solid foundation, will ensure Saint Catherine Center continues to thrive and spread its mission for many years to come. [Click here for our latest building project update.](#)

The *Building for the Future Campaign* not only presents opportunities for enrollment growth and evolving programs, but also





promises updated, authentic learning spaces that will meet individual's unique needs and empower them to grow and excel. Among the remarkable features of the expansion are a hydroponic grow room and a commercial- grade kitchen. These additions will not only facilitate skill-building programs but also offer real-world vocational experiences, preparing individuals for a meaningful life beyond their time at the Center.

To everyone who has been a part of this journey, Saint Catherine Center extends an invitation to join us at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on **Friday September 15, at 10:30 a.m.** Together, we can create a welcoming community where individuals with disabilities can thrive, achieve, and make meaningful connections.

If you would like to assist us in completing the outfitting of the new building, [please click here](#). Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



BUILDING FOR
THE FUTURE
GRAND OPENING

10:30am
Friday September 15, 2023



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Make plans now to join us
for our Annual Gala

Invitations will be mailed in August

**McClinch Family Center
St. Catherine of Sienna Parish
Trumbull**

5 to 9 p.m.

For more information about registration or sponsorships, call 203-540-5381

Joy and Gratitude

SAVE the DATE

Sunday, October 8, 2023

Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs



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